



CRIME VICTIMS RECEIVE RECORD-BREAKING RESTITUTION UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S LEADERSHIP

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Governor Schwarzenegger's policies push restitution to historic highs

Restitution—fines levied against convicted criminals—holds offenders accountable and provides monetary justice to victims. Under the Governor's direction, California has achieved historic collection and payment gains, making it one of the nation's most successful restitution programs.

- The Governor raised inmate wage garnishments from 30% to 40%, with a final jump to 50% effective January 1, 2007.
- He oversaw an unprecedented collaboration between the Victim Compensation Fund, the Government Claims Board, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to increase collections from discharged offenders.
- As a result, California now collects a record \$1.3 million on average per month in restitution payments from incarcerated offenders.
 - In January 2006 California surpassed \$100 million in total collections.
- His 2006-2007 proposed budget provides funding to expand Criminal Restitution Contracts to Merced, Riverside, San Joaquin, and Tulare.
 - These contracts currently fund over 30 county liaisons that help victims navigate the restitution process.
 - In counties *with* a liaison:
 - Courts impose restitution in 77% of cases—compared to 8% in counties without.
 - The average fine is \$3,312—compared to \$1,865 in counties without.

The Governor's policies support crime victims and their families

- On April 24, 2006 Governor Schwarzenegger established a Crime Victim Advocate by Executive Order.
 - This new position, located in his office, will bridge the gaps between state victim service programs, collaborate with key

stakeholders, and become the lead state advocate on policy impacting crime victims.

- Since 2004 he has signed legislation to expand victims' rights, including: Strengthening restitution laws; giving victims the last word at parole hearings; protecting the confidentiality of victims' sexual history; strengthening Megan's Law; and creating the California Sexual Violence Victim Services Fund.
- His successful push for reorganization at CDCR has resulted in key victims' service improvements, including standardizing training curricula, creating a Victim Advisory Council, and reissuing the "lifer" hearing handbook.
- In 2005 the Governor proposed the Sexual Predator Punishment and Control Act, known as "Jessica's Law." If passed on the November ballot, it will impose the most stringent sex offender laws in the country.

The Governor's proposed 2006-2007 budget supports victims and law enforcement

- \$9.8 million for six new Gang Suppression Teams
- \$8 million for Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Task Forces (SAFE Teams)
- \$6.7 million for District Attorneys to represent victims during the parole revocation hearing process
- \$5.1 million to add 500 Global Positioning System devices to track high-risk parolees
- \$1 million for local victim services during the parole revocation hearing process
- \$1 million to reestablish the Board of Parole Hearings Appeal Unit

In 2005, the California District Attorneys Association presented Governor Schwarzenegger with the Fiat Justicia Ruat Coelum award for his dedication to victims' rights and his support of California's Three Strikes Law.

For more information on the Governor's record, and to learn more about state resources for crime victims, visit www.SupportingCrimeVictims.com.